2. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 1 wherein said yeast cell[s] [are] is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces pombe.*

B1

4. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 1 wherein the reporter gene is lac Z.

5. (Amended) A [G]genetically engineered viable yeast cell[s] transformed with plasmids expressing a chimeric Ah receptor, said chimeric Ah receptor comprising [the] an Ah receptor having its DNA binding [in] and dimerization domain[s] replaced with the analogous domain from a protein capable of binding DNA sequences, an operator sequence comprising the binding sites from the binding domain of the protein used to replace the binding domain of the Ah receptor, and a reporter gene for detecting the activation of the chimeric Ah receptor upon the binding of agonists to said chimeric Ah receptor.

B2

6. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 5 wherein the yeast[s][are] is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces pombe.*

8. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 5 wherein the DNA binding and dimerization domain of the Ah receptor[s][are] is replaced with the DNA binding and dimerization domain from a LexA protein.

9. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 5 wherein the operator is Lex A operator.

B3

10. (Amended) The yeast cell[s] of claim 5 wherein the reporter gene is lac Z.

11. (Amended) A [G]genetically engineered viable mammalian cell[s] transformed with plasmids expressing a chimeric Ah receptor, said chimeric Ah receptor comprising [the] an Ah receptor having its DNA binding [in] and dimerization domains replaced with the analogous domain from a protein capable of binding DNA sequences, an operator sequence comprising the binding sites from the binding domain of the protein used to replace the binding domain of the Ah receptor, and a reporter gene for detecting the activation of the chimeric Ah receptor upon the binding of agonists to said chimeric Ah receptor.

B3

12. (Amended) The mammalian cell[s] of claim 11 wherein the mammalian cell[s] [are] is a COS-1 cell[s].

14. (Amended) The [yeast cells] mammalian cell of claim 11 wherein the DNA binding and dimerization domain from a Ga14 protein.

15. (Amended) An assay for detecting agonists to [the] an Ah [recptor] receptor in environmental samples, the assay comprising the steps of:

B4

a) preparing a culture of the genetically engineered viable cell[s] of claims 1, 5, or 11;

b) incorporating a sample to be tested into the culture containing the cell[s] of step a;

c) growing the culture for several hours;

d) determining Ah receptor activation by detecting reporter gene expression; and

e) detecting agonists based on Ah receptor activation.

B4

16. (Amended) The assay of claim 15 wherein the cell[s] [are] is a yeast cell[s].

17. (Amended) The assay of claim 15 wherein the cell[s] is a mammalian cell[s].

Please delete claims 13 without prejudice.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 24, line 11, delete, "intrans" and insert -- introns --.

On page 53, line 11, delete "wich" and insert -- which--; line 21, delete, "achiever" and insert --achieve--.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following arguments is respectfully requested. Applicants have addressed every ground for rejection in the Office Action dated November 24, 1997 and believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In response to the Office Action dated November 24, 1997, claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-12 and 14-17 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added with the amendment of these claims. In addition, claim 13 has been deleted without prejudice.